

C 25 August 1955

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Handwritten: Mrs. J. S. Whitford

TO : Executive Secretary, EIC
THRU : Chief, Materials Division
FROM : Chairman, EIC Subcommittee on Metals and Minerals
SUBJECT: Annual Review of the Activities and Accomplishments of the EIC Subcommittee on Metals and Minerals
REF : EIC-D-108, 22 July 1955, EIC Subcommittee Annual Reports

A report of the activities of the Subcommittee on Metals and Minerals (MMSC) is submitted herewith in response to the request of EIC-D-108 of 22 July 1955.

I. Review of Intelligence Product and the Research Facilities

A. The Subcommittee prepared a survey of priority research deficiencies in its field of responsibility which involved an examination of the intelligence available on metals and minerals.

B. Research responsibilities have been allocated to member agencies in accordance with their responsibilities and capabilities. (SEE EIC-S-1/10a and EIC-S-1/10b, both dated 10 March 1954.) This allocation, as approved by the EIC, assigned substantially complete responsibility to CIA/ORR for intelligence research on metals and minerals in the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

II. Programming of Research Priorities

Priority research gaps in the field of metals and minerals have been identified by the subcommittee as follows:

A. Ferrous Metals

1. Material flows of the raw materials and finished products of the iron and steel industry.

2. Production and consumption patterns of ferroalloys and of alloyed irons and steels.

3. Use and requirement patterns of finished iron and steel, by various consuming industries.

4. Scientific and technological developments in ferrous metallurgical practices.

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B. Nonferrous Metals and Minerals

1. Consumption, utilization, and adequacy of nonferrous metals and minerals.
2. Stockpiling of these commodities.
3. Information about the physical aspects of productive facilities.
4. Foreign trade in nonferrous metals and minerals.
5. Technologic developments and managerial competence.

In the Ferrous Metals section of the survey CIA is the only agency listed as having the capability and responsibility for undertaking research to fill the priority research deficiencies. The Ferrous Metals Branch of CIA/ORR has scheduled studies designed to decrease these deficiencies as part of its Fiscal 56 program.

In the Non-Ferrous area, CIA/ORR had projects scheduled for each of the gaps listed at the time that the survey was completed; however, ORR's program in regard to these materials underwent major changes subsequent to completion of the survey. In view of these changes and the statement in the survey itself that "at the end of fiscal year 1955 this Subcommittee intends to re-survey the state of research on this field to determine the extent to which the particular Agency programs have met the deficiencies described in this survey", the Subcommittee should reassess the status of previously identified deficiencies.

III. Projects Undertaken at the Request of the EIC

None

IV. Discussion of Intelligence Research Techniques

The Subcommittee has not had any formal discussions of intelligence research techniques.

V. Review of the Adequacy of Available Information and Processing Facilities

The Subcommittee as yet has not identified specific priority collection deficiencies nor made any recommendations for improving the collection or processing of information.

VI. Special Coordinating Functions of the Subcommittee

Several informal meetings were held among representatives from Air/TAD, State/OIR, and CIA/ORR for the coordination

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of estimates of production of pig iron, crude steel, aluminum, copper, lead, and zinc. No formally agreed statistics have resulted from these discussions.

VII. Evaluation of the Role of the Subcommittee

Inasmuch as the responsibilities in this field have been concentrated largely in CIA/ORR, non-CIA representatives have little interest in the substantive research problems within the field delineated by the EIC approved terms of reference for this Subcommittee.

VIII. Future Program of the Subcommittee

A. It is intended to call an early meeting of the Subcommittee to determine whether sufficient constructive interest can be developed which would make it possible to utilize the Subcommittee as a more efficient coordinating mechanism.

B. If the Subcommittee can be rejuvenated, the following are suggestive of the future functions of the Subcommittee:

1. The Subcommittee should reappraise its survey of priority research deficiencies to determine the extent to which particular agency programs have met or are expected to meet the deficiencies described in the original survey.

2. The Subcommittee should discuss sources and methodologies for filling priority research gaps.

3. The Subcommittee should make every effort to achieve, at least in principal, an agreed position on major commodities.

4. The Subcommittee should review all major research papers in its field.